

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 063495  
ORIGIN SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 R

DRAFTED BY AF:WBEDMONDSON  
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S/S :TMARTIN

-----085407 122114Z /63

O 122105Z MAR 78  
FM SECSTATE WASHDC  
TO AMEMBASSY DAR ES SALAAM IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY GABORONE IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LAGOS IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LUSAKA IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY MAPUTO IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY PRETORIA IMMEDIATE  
AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN IMMEDIATE  
AMEMBASSY LILONGWE IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 063495

EXDIS FOR AMBASSADOR

E.O. 11652: XGDS-3

TAGS: PDEV, RH

SUBJECT: RHODESIA: APPROACH TO FRONT LINE PRESIDENTS AND  
NIGERIA

REF: STATE 63462

1. WITH YOUR BRITISH COUNTERPART, WHO SHOULD HAVE  
INSTRUCTIONS TO ACCOMPANY, YOU SHOULD SEEK EARLY APPOINTMENT  
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TO BRIEF PRESIDENT OR HIGHEST APPROPRIATE OFFICIAL ON RE-  
SULTS OF SECRETARY'S MEETING WITH NKOMA AND MUGABE MARCH 11  
DRAWING ON REFTEL (EXCEPT FOR IDEA OF SUBGROUPS IN PARA 8)  
AND FOLLOWING TALKING POINTS:

2. TALKING POINTS:

A. NKOMA AND MUGABE REJECTED IDEA OF AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING THAT WOULD SEEK TO BRIDGE DIFFERENCES THAT DIVIDE PARTICIPANTS FROM THE MALTA AND SALISBURY TALKS.

B. THEY ARGUED THAT SUCH EFFORT WOULD CONSTITUTE LEGITIMIZATION OF SALISBURY AGREEMENT TO WHICH THEY ARE CATEGORICALLY OPPOSED. THEY ALSO REFUSED TO ACCORD ANY STATUS IN OVERALL TALKS TO NATIONALISTS WHO

PARTICIPATED IN SALISBURY TALKS, ARGUING THAT THEY HAVE JOINED SMITH.

C. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT BY THEIR REFUSAL TO CONSIDER ANY KIND OF MEETING OTHER THAN A NARROW CONTINUATION OF THE MALTA TALKS, THE PF LEADERS ARE ALLOWING VALUABLE TIME TO BE LOST DURING WHICH SMITH WILL MOVE QUICKLY TO ESTABLISH A TRANSITIONAL GOVERNMENT AND CONSOLIDATE WHAT HE HAS GAINED THROUGH THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT.

D. NKOMA AND MUGABE SEEM TO OVERLOOK THE FACT THAT FAR FROM LEGITIMIZING THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT, AN ALL-PARTIES MEETING WOULD DRAW MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE AWAY FROM THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT INTO THE SEARCH FOR SOMETHING ON WHICH THERE CAN BE COMMON CONFIDENTIAL

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AGREEMENT.

E. THE PF'S UNWILLINGNESS TO ACCORD MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE ANY STATUS AS NATIONALIST LEADERS (HOWEVER LARGE OR SMALL THEIR CURRENT FOLLOWING MAY BE) IS UNDOUBTEDLY ONE OF THE FACTORS THAT LED MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE TO NEGOTIATE SEPARATELY WITH SMITH. MUZOREWA AND SITHOLE CANNOT BE EXPECTED TO MOVE AWAY FROM THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT UNLESS THEY CAN BE ASSURED THAT THEY WILL NOT BE EXCLUDED FROM THE NEGOTIATING PROCESS NEEDED TO OBTAIN A BROADER AGREEMENT.

F. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT A MEETING OF ALL THE PARTIES IS THE ONLY FEASIBLE WAY TO GET THEM TO MOVE EXPEDITIOUSLY TOWARD AN AGREEMENT FULFILLING THE PRINCIPLES EMBODIED IN THE AAP.

G. CONTINUED PF REFUSAL TO AGREE TO A MEETING CAN ONLY STRENGTHEN THE SUPPORTERS OF THE SALISBURY AGREEMENT; HOWEVER DETERMINED THE PF REMAINS, THE FAILURE OF EFFORTS TO GET NEGOTIATIONS STARTED AGAIN OFFERS

ONLY THE PROSPECT OF LONG, DESTRUCTIVE WARFARE WITH  
TRAGIC CONSEQUENCES FOR ALL CONCERNED.

H. WE EARNESTLY HOPE THE AFRICAN STATES CAN PREVAIL UPON  
THE PARTIES TO AGREE TO A MEETING WITHOUT PRECONDI-  
TIONS THAT MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE TO GET THE PROCESS  
STARTED AGAIN.

3. FOR LUSAKA (RE LUSAKA 791): AFTER SEEING SECRETARY,  
NKOMA AND MUGABE EXPRESSED SIMILAR VIEWS TO REPORTERS.  
WASHINGTON POST STORY SUNDAY MAY PRODUCE FURTHER  
PUBLICITY.

4. FOR MAPUTO: YOU SHOULD COMBINE POINTS IN PARA 3  
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WITH THOSE THAT REMAIN APPROPRIATE FROM STATE 63436  
AND PREVIOUS. VANCE

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NNN

## Message Attributes

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**TAGS:** PDEV, RH, TZ, NI, BC, AO, ZA, MZ, (VANCE, CYRUS R), (MUGABE, ROBERT), (NKOMO, JOSHUA)  
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